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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

New York, New York

Hideyuki SHIMONISHI

Date: January 11, 2001

Serial No.:

Group Art Unit:

Filed:

Examiner:

For: NODE APPARATUS

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RS

3-16-01

Asst. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 73, line 10, change "43" to --143--;  
line 25, change "33" (first occurrence) to --133--.

Page 76, line 27, change "IP processing" to --input buffer--.

Page 77, line 1, change "166" to --168--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) [A] An ATM node apparatus which has a VC set between at least two adjacent ATM node apparatuses and transfers a packet over the VC after dividing the packet into cells, characterized by comprising

a route table, a quality description table, a plurality of output queues, and an output control section for performing read control on a packet from each output queue so as to achieve a quality set for each output queue, wherein an output destination of an incoming packet is determined by searching said route table by using packet header information, which is not included in ATM header information, but included in a start cell of the packet, a quality class of